

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 /211 W
-----124022 011510Z /53

R 011452Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9048
INFO LOS COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS GENEVA 06563

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF NORMAN A. WULF, CHAIRMAN, THIRD
COMMITTEE, INFORMAL MEETING ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

1. TEXT OF STATEMENT BY NORMAN A. WULF MADE TO THIRD
COMMITTEE ON APRIL 28, 1978 FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:

MR. CHAIRMAN,

MY DELEGATION WOULD HAVE WISHED TO SEE A TEXT ON
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FAR DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE THAT
EMERGED FROM NEGOTIATIONS AT THE LAST SESSION. WE DEEPLY
REGRET THE RESTRICTIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING THE
CONDUCT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH THAT EMERGED. EVEN
INTERNATIONAL WEATHER PREDICTION CAPABILITIES--OF
IMMEDIATE BENEFIT TO THE POOR AND GREAT ALIKE, AND OF HARM
TO NO ONE--MAY BE IMPAIRED BY THESE TEXTS. THERE IS NO
DOUBT THAT WE WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY PURSUADING THOUGHTFUL
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AND INTERNATIONALLY-MINDED SCIENTISTS TO SUPPORT
RATIFICATION OF SUCH AN EVENTUAL TREATY. IT IS IRONIC
THAT SUCH CONSISTENT AND DEDICATED SUPPORTERS OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRY ASPIRATIONS SHOULD BE HURT SO BADLY IN THIS
TREATY.

NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE PREPARED TO RESPECT THE INTEGRITY OF

THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IF OTHERS ARE PREPARED TO DO THE SAME. WE WILL NOT OBJECT TO THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TEXT IF MINOR CORRECTIONS ARE MADE THAT BRING IT INTO FULL CONFORMITY WITH THE TEXTS NEGOTIATED AMONG HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. THE GROUP THAT CONDUCTED THESE NEGOTIATIONS WAS A BROADLY BASED REPRESENTATIVE GROUP. THIS NEGOTIATED TEXT MADE ONLY SLIGHT MODIFICATION IN THE PROPOSAL YOU PRESENTED TO THIS COMMITTEE LAST YEAR. INDEED, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THE CHANGES WERE MUCH LESS FAR-REACHING THAN WE WOULD HAVE LIKED.

IN ANY EVENT, THIS NEGOTIATED TEXT WAS PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE AT THE END OF THE LAST SESSION. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE NEGOTIATED COMPROMISE WAS UNACCEPTABLE. THEREFORE, MY DELEGATION CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR STATEMENT THAT FURTHER CHANGES IN THE COMPROMISE FORMULA WERE NECESSARY. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS NEGOTIATED TEXT SHOULD BE FULLY REFLECTED IN THE FUTURE CONFERENCE TEXT. LET ME REITERATE ALL WE SEEK ARE SOME CHANGES WHICH BRING THE ICNT IN STRICT CONFORMITY WITH THE NEGOTIATED TEXT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS COMMITTEE UNDERSTAND THAT MORE THAN JUST THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TEXT IS INVOLVED. NEGOTIATIONS ANYWHERE IN THIS CONFERENCE CANNOT SUCCEED UNLESS IT IS POSSIBLE TO RELY ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTEGRITY OF REPRESENTATIVE NEGOTIATING FORUMS, PARTICULARLY AT THE HEAD OF DELEGATION LEVEL, SUPPORTED BY RELEVANT CONFERENCE OFFICERS. NOW, MORE THAN EVER IN THE HISTORY OF OUR CONFERENCE, THIS POINT IS CRITICAL. THE PRESIDENT AND THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, OF COURSE, BEAR SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS REGARD.

MR. CHAIRMAN, AS FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE TEMPTED TO TRY TO SEEK EVEN MORE RESTRICTIONS ON SCIENCE, WE WILL NOT TAKE THE COMMITTEE'S TIME REPEATING OUR SUBSTANTIVE ARGUMENTS. WE ASK ONLY THAT THEY AND THEIR HEADS OF DELEGATION CONSIDER ALL OF THEIR INTERESTS IN A WIDELY RATIFIED LAW OF THE SEA TREATY BEFORE MAKING PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT SERIOUSLY HARM THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH A TREATY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, YOU ARE, OF COURSE, IN THE HANDS OF THE COMMITTEE. BUT YOU ARE ALSO ITS LEADER. WE CAN DO NO MORE HERE THAN APPEAL TO YOUR SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, TO THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS, AND TO THE GOAL OF A WIDELY RATIFIED TREATY.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. END TEXT. RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, RESEARCH, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, SPEECHES, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA06563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780185-0733
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805106/aaaadmsd.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7eb3a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2532831
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATEMENT OF NORMAN A. WULF, CHAIRMAN, THIRD COMMITTEE, INFORMAL MEETING ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
TAGS: PLOS, (WULF, NORMAN A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7eb3a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014